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The work is necessarily, from its brevity, synoptic in its treatment of the subject, and as such is especially adapted to instruct persons engaged in active life, whose time for reading is limited. To such persons we can recommend the work, as expressing in a brief space the results of recent research in a field of the greatest interest to all students of mankind or of our own part of it.—E. D. Cope.

Boulenger on Rhynchocephalia, Testudinata, and Crocodilia.[2]—In this book of 300 pages we have another valuable result of the labors of Dr. Boulenger, which will be of great utility to the students of the Reptilian orders named. The very full collections at the disposal of the author enable him to settle many questions of specific characters that have awaited elucidation, and to assign to their proper places in the system many forms which have been named. The system adopted is clear, and expresses the present state of our knowledge. For many of its good points the author is indebted to Dr. George Baur, whose recent researches in this field have been of great value. Dr. Boulenger has used Dr. Baur's observations with judgment, attaching values to them in accordance with their merits. We think he has undervalued the character of the mutual attachment of the plastron and carapace. On the other hand, the peculiarity of the nuchal bones has enabled Baur to distinguish the Dermatemydidæ from the Emydidæ. We do not now give as high a rank to the Athecæ as does Boulenger, nor would we abolish the suborders, as is proposed by Baur, but have adopted an intermediate course.

Dr. Boulenger reaches a remarkable conclusion as to the relations of the Trionychidæ with broad alveolar surfaces for crushing, to those with acute edges of the jaws. He finds that species of India, China, and Africa present individuals with both kinds of structure, which are otherwise undistinguishable, except by a few correlated characters. He thinks that the facts indicate a dimorphism in such species, one form being piscivorous and the other conchivorous. He has not found any young individuals with broad grinding alveolar surfaces, and suspects that that modification is acquired by the animal's entering on a diet of Mollusca, and that it is maintained by persistence in it throughout life. The genus Platypeltis thus becomes a modification of Trionyx. This is certainly a remarkable proposition, and it ought not to be difficult to prove or disprove it by observations on our *Trionyx ferox*, the only North American species supposed to present constantly broad and flat alveolar surfaces.

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[2] Catalogue of the Chelonians, Rhynchocephalians, and Emydosaurians in the British Museum By G. A. Boulenger. Published by the trustees, 1889.

The whole number of Testudinata recorded by Dr. Boulenger is 195. Perhaps there are a dozen species omitted. Of the Crocodilia 23 species are recognized.—E. D. COPE.

Frazer's Mineralogical Tables.[3]—The object of Dr. Frazer's tables is to enable the students to determine the nature of the most important minerals without recourse to blowpipe analysis. As is well known, the first edition was a translation of Dr. Weisbach's "Tabellen." In the third edition but little of Weisbach's original descriptions remain. Except the plan, the entire contents of the little book are Dr. Frazer's, so that the volume as it now stands is essentially a new production, in which are incorporated many of the most important portions of Groth's chemical tables and Weisbach's latest determinative tables. The arrangement of the tables is briefly as follows: The minerals are divided in accordance with luster and streak. These groups are printed together, and in columns opposite the names of the various members of each group are given their hardness, tenacity, crystal system and habit, cleavage, chemical composition, density, paragenesis, and a few blowpipe reactions in rare cases. With its aid there should be almost no trouble in deciding the name of any common mineral. The tables are especially valuable for field determinations. They are bound flexible cloth, and are of a convenient size for carrying in the pocket.—W. L. B.

[3] Tables for the Determination of Minerals. By Persifor Frazer. Third edition. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1891, pp. IX., 115.